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 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHOC 4558
 INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5549
 RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3103
 RUOKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1B63
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3455

State Dept. review completed

EXDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS SECOEF WASHOC

FOR UNOER SECRETARY BUCKLEY FROM AMBASSAOR

E.O.: 12065: ROS-1 7/12/02 (WOODS, R. E.) OR-M
 TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, UK, NL, NO
 SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GAS PROSPECTS

REFS: (A) PARIS 23403; (B) OSLO 3322; (C) OSLO 3405 (NOTAL)
 (D) STATE 1B87B0

1. CONFIOENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS OF AMBASSAOR GALBRAITH (REF A) REGARDING POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR NORWEGIAN GAS DEVELOPMENTS. HE IS ABSOLUTELY ON TARGET WHEN HE STATES THAT TO SUCCEED, ANY PROJECT MUST TAKE COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SENSE. OUR NORWEGIAN FRIENDS CERTAINLY AGREE ON THAT AS WELL.

3. WE HAVE NO BASIS TO JUDGE THE FEASIBILITY OF AMBASSAOR GALBRAITH'S SUGGESTION FOR AN EXPANSION OF DUTCH PRODUCTION IN RETURN FOR SPECIAL NORWEGIAN ARRANGEMENTS LATER. AS HE POINTS OUT, IT IS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE DUTCH WHO ARE THE KEY TO THE EQUATION. NEVERTHELESS, IF WASHINGTON AGREES THAT THE AMBASSAOR'S IDEA HAS MERIT, I RECOMMEND THAT IT BE EXPLORED WITH NORWEGIAN ENERGY STATE SECRETARY RAMM WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 16-17 -- WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT BY THAT TIME WITH THE DUTCH. ALTERNATIVELY, SHOULD WASHINGTON PREFER, THE EMBASSY COULD EXPLORE THIS QUESTION INFORMALLY WITH THE GOV IN OSLO.

4. ANY APPROACH TO RAMM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STRUCTURED SO AS NOT TO BE MISINTERPRETED AS WASHINGTON PRESSURE -- WHICH WOULD CLEARLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. MOREOVER, RAMM SHOULD BE APPROACHED FROM AN ADMINISTRATION POSITION, AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT ALL WASHINGTON CONSTITUENCIES SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE. ALSO WE RECOMMEND THAT EXCHANGE BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL AND WHATEVER POSSIBLE BE DONE TO AVOID PRESS LEAKS. AUSTAD

END OF MESSAGE

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